

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Status Report on KHSAA Responses to the Major Recommendations from the Commission on Interscholastic Athletics Report

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 702 KAR 7:065, KHSAA Bylaws

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At the April 2007 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the creation of the Commission on Interscholastic Athletics with the following charge:

“WHEREAS, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) has acted as the agent of the Kentucky Board of Education for several years in matters relating to high school athletics, it is the responsibility of the board to periodically review and monitor this entity’s operation. In fulfillment of this responsibility, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in 1993 appointed a Commission on Interscholastic Athletics to study optimum methods and best practices to deliver quality high school interscholastic athletic programs. The Kentucky Board of Education reestablishes a Commission on Interscholastic Athletics charged with the responsibility of reviewing the operational efficiency of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. This review shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of the following issues:

- Are business practices conducted efficiently?
- Are existing bylaws monitored and enforced?
- Is the amount expended for legal services appropriate and reasonable?
- Are eligibility rulings and appeals addressed promptly and consistently?
- What is the role of eligibility hearing officers? Does the Board of Control usually accept their findings?
- Review the relationship with the KHSAA to the court system. Are Orders of the Court being appropriately addressed?”

The Commission on Interscholastic Athletics consists of seven (7) members, one (1) appointed from each of the Kentucky Supreme Court Judicial Districts. The

Commission may report its findings periodically to the Kentucky Board of Education but is expected to provide a summary by the end of the calendar year.

In June 2007, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the appointment of the following persons to the Commission:

- Judicial District 1 - James Kenneth Shadowen - Benton, KY
- Judicial District 2 - Thomas E. Gumm - Glasgow, KY
- Judicial District 3 - Jane Adams Venters - Somerset, KY
- Judicial District 4 - Sherron A. Hoehler Gambert - Louisville, KY
- Judicial District 5 - Harvey D. Thompson - Lexington, KY
- Judicial District 6 - Brenda Jackson - Shelbyville, KY
- Judicial District 7- Dr. Zella Wells - Paintsville, KY (Note: Dr. Wells resigned in November due to a possible conflict of interest on an athletic issue between the school district where she works and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.)

The Commission on Interscholastic Athletics (CIA) met six times in 2007 on July 12, August 7, September 11, October 16, November 19 and December 3 to carry out its charge from the Kentucky Board of Education. Their final report with specific recommendations regarding the Kentucky High School Athletic Association was presented to the KBE at its December 2007 meeting and is attached for the Board's reference.

Once the KBE received the CIA's report, it requested that the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) respond to its recommendations. KHSAA Commissioner Brigid DeVries indicated that the KHSAA Board of Control would be studying the recommendations and an official response would come back to the KBE at its June meeting. The KHSAA Board of Control's response is attached in the form of a status report on its implementation of the CIA's recommendations. It is noted that the response to streamlining the due process procedure (item I. in the attached status report) is already included in the other June agenda item from KHSAA titled "702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions in Kentucky High School Athletic Association Bylaws and Due Process Procedure (Final)". KHSAA staff will be present at the June meeting to discuss the Board of Control's responses to the CIA's recommendations.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Athletics contribute to the overall physical health of students and therefore affect their ability to perform academically.

Contact Person:

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Recommending Contact Person

Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2008